

**Brent SACRE annual report  
2011-12****July 2012**

Queries about this report should be addressed to:

Stephen McMullan  
Strategic Lead for Behaviour, Attendance, Wellbeing and RE  
Services to Schools  
Centre for Staff Development  
Brentfield Road  
London NW10 8HE  
Tel: 020 8937 3564  
Fax: 020 8937 3368  
Email: [stephen.mcmullan@brent.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.mcmullan@brent.gov.uk)

## **Standards and quality of provision**

### **1.0 Overview**

Attainment in GCSE Religious Studies remains above the national average (see below 1.4). This is in part due to the creative approach taken by secondary school teachers in using the Brent Agreed Syllabus at Key Stages 3 and 4 and their understanding of how to improve pupils' attainment and rates of progress. In line with the national picture, primary school teachers are still in need of support with developing programmes of study and making the most of the Brent Agreed Syllabus.

The 2002 Brent Agreed Syllabus continues to be used in many secondary schools, with the exception of the four faith schools which use their own materials. Primary schools have also successfully implemented the Agreed Syllabus including some Church of England schools. SACRE agreed to put 'on hold' the Agreed Syllabus Conference to revise Brent's 2002 Agreed Syllabus until the national picture has become clearer in relation to the revision of the national curriculum.

### **1.1 Primary schools**

Brent primary school teachers report a growing confidence in teaching religious education as a result of their attendance at termly network meetings.

Some schools have booked the associate consultant for religious education for twilight training and more schools are requesting this provision. This is an important aspect of the consultant's work and is key to improving religious education teaching in primary schools. Feedback from the termly meetings is very good, as is the feedback from individual schools.

The RE Consultant has supported five primary schools by delivering training on innovative approaches to RE and Collective Worship or by offering one to one support for teachers in charge of RE.

### **1.2 Key Stage 3**

Key Stage 3 religious education is enhanced by the increasingly creative ways in which schools are using the Agreed Syllabus programmes of study to develop creative schemes of work. This is evidenced by the fact that the majority of secondary schools opt to either study 'Interpreting symbols and stories' or 'Responses to God' in the first two terms of Year 7. Both of these units provide opportunities for pupils to use artefacts and images to interpret different beliefs.

The RE Consultant gave support to one Head of RE in a secondary school in relation to planned changes to provision for the subject.

### **1.3 Key Stage 4**

Religious education in Key Stage 4 in Brent secondary schools continues to be a strength, with many students opting for either the short or full course GCSE accreditation. Attainment on the full course was again above the national average, 2010-11, with 80% of pupils achieving A\*-C grades, compared with 72% nationally. On the short course, 52% of pupils achieved A\*-C grades, in line with the national average. This is largely due to the work of effective subject leaders and specialist teachers who deliver religious education in Brent secondary schools. The 2012 results will be available in the autumn term of 2012.

## **2.0 Meetings of Brent SACRE during the academic year 2011-2012**

Brent SACRE met three times during the reporting year, once in each term. All meetings take place at the Gwenneth Rickus Building, Brentfield Road, NW10 8HE.

**2.1 The meeting in the autumn term** took place on Wednesday 6 October 2011. The agenda and minutes are attached. See Appendix 1.

**2.2 The meeting in the spring term** took place on Wednesday 14 March 2012. The agenda and minutes are attached. See Appendix 2.

**2.3 The meeting in the summer term** took place on Wednesday 13 June 2012. The agenda and minutes are attached. See Appendix 3.

## **2.4 The range of religious and belief groups represented on SACRE**

Brent SACRE has representation on group A of: Buddhism, Christianity, Humanism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism and Sikhism. Places for Bahai and Zoroastrian representatives are currently unfilled. There are multiple representatives of Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. On group B there are six representatives from the Church of England. On group C there are seven members. On group D there are three local authority councillors. See Appendix 4 for a full list of members and any vacancies.

## **2.5 Training / induction offered to SACRE members, particularly new members**

Some years ago, Brent SACRE produced a 'Welcome to SACRE' booklet which is given to new SACRE members. This sets out, in detail, the way SACRE operates and includes the expectations of SACRE members. Most SACRE meetings devote time to the conveyance of information that is of use to SACRE members in their work. Input is provided by either the religious education consultant or a guest speaker. Visits to schools by SACRE members are encouraged and facilitated. Four schools were visited and supported by SACRE members. See Appendix 5 for the letter sent to schools. Delegates occasionally attend external training, particularly that provided by NASACRE, and are given time to report back in some detail at the subsequent meeting of SACRE.

## **2.6 SACRE advice**

Brent SACRE members continue to support the training activities offered to schools in the local authority by responding to requests from the religious education consultant to either support the delivery of training, or to visit a school to support specific religious education activities. This is something that schools benefit from as it ensures that teachers meet with representatives from faith communities. This contact informs teachers' classroom practice. Teachers are put in touch with the most appropriate SACRE members by the religious education consultant, either to seek advice on a particular religious tradition or in order to identify an appropriate expert speaker.

Training for primary teachers has been provided by the local authority's religious education consultant who ensures the advice provided is consistent with the collective agreement of SACRE. The SACRE receives feedback on all such training; advice on resources is incorporated into training and other meetings between the consultant and school teachers, again, taking into account materials recommended by SACRE members.

## **2.7 The level and nature of finance offered to the SACRE by the local authority for the training of its members, for supporting RE and collective worship.**

The local authority has funded an external religious education consultant for up to 60 days work this year. A clerk to SACRE is provided by the local authority and the local authority meets the cost of SACRE meetings and of members' attendance at NASACRE training. An external consultant to SACRE is funded for five days a year.

## **3.0 Agreed syllabus**

**3.1** Brent SACRE convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and it was decided that the 2002 Agreed Syllabus would be reviewed. The ASC was mindful of the recent developments in the primary and secondary curriculum and wants to develop an Agreed Syllabus that draws on recent developments and publications.

**3.2** At its meeting on 14 March 2012, the ASC decided to put 'on hold' any further deliberations on the revision of Brent's Agreed Syllabus in the light of changes at a national level in relation to the primary and secondary curriculum review. Once this has become clearer, the ASC will reconvene to revise the Agreed Syllabus.

## **4.0 Collective worship**

SACRE has given advice regarding collective worship and the right of parents to withdraw their children from such acts. The provision for collective worship is not formally monitored by the local authority. However, no complaints have been received this year.

## **4.1 Overview of applications for determinations**

Brent SACRE has a longstanding policy of encouraging all community and non denominational foundation schools to seek determinations, and most do. No schools renewed their determinations in the academic year, 2011-12. There are currently thirty-six schools which have determinations, covering both primary and secondary phases of education. A letter to maintained schools whose determination has expired was sent in July 2012 from the local authority, on behalf of SACRE, to encourage them to apply. See Appendix 6. An increasing number of secondary schools are becoming academies and therefore are not covered by the same statutory regulations in relation to determinations.

## **4.2 Complaints about collective worship**

No complaints about collective worship have been received.

## **5.0 SACRE's work in schools**

Various individual SACRE members visited schools during the year to participate in or contribute to aspects of the schools' delivery of RE. Such visits are sometimes set up by schools contacting the clerk to SACRE and asking to be put in touch with an appropriate person (schools have all received a letter reminding them that SACRE offers this facility) and sometimes through direct approaches to the individual faith or belief communities. SACRE members report on such visits at a subsequent SACRE meeting.

Brent SACRE continues to be passionate about playing an active role in Brent schools and this was further demonstrated this year by the readiness of SACRE members to support schools by delivering sessions about their individual faiths.

## **6.0 RE newsletter**

The Consultant for RE, and the local authority Strategic Lead for RE, produced a newsletter for both primary and secondary schools. This was sent to all Brent schools. See Appendix 7.

# APPENDIX 1

## MEETING OF BRENT SACRE

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
4:30pm – 6:00pm (refreshments from 4:00pm)  
Centre for Staff Development

### AGENDA

**Apologies:** Josh Kutchinsky, Margaret Engler, Valerie Boyd-Heller, Parvin Noorali, Vivian Wright, Navin Swaminarayan, Cllr Helga Gladbaum, Angela Hopkins, S. Swaminathan, Michelle Anderson

1.	4:00- 4:25	Arrival, refreshments	All
2.	4:25-4:30	Apologies  Welcome/ new members/visitors  New member: Mrs Jane Clist -Church of England  New consultant: Lesley Prior	
3.	4:30 - 4:40	Minutes of last meeting (16 <sup>th</sup> June 2011) and matters arising	all
4.	4:40 – 5:00	Feedback from Brent Youth Parliament event	RB
5.	5:00 – 5:10	Recommendation for Brent secondary schools to participate in Warwick University research project	RB
6.	5:10 – 5:15	AOB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• London and SACRE's annual meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> October</li><li>• Date of next meeting</li></ul>	
7.	5:15 - 5:55	Convening of the Agreed Syllabus Conference	RB

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Attendees**

GROUP A	Rupa Monerawela, Alan Hennes, Basma El Shayyal, Marlene Knepler (part), Deva Samaroo
GROUP B	Toby Crowe, Tasha Critchlow, Jane Clist, Graham Marriner
GROUP C	
GROUP D	
Others	Roger Butler, Lesley Prior, Sherry-Ann Sorzano

**Apologies**

Josh Kutchinsky, Margaret Engler, Valerie Boyd-Hellner, Parin Noorali, Vivian Wright, Navin Swaminarayan, Cllr Helga Gladbaum, Angela Hopkins, S. Swaminathan, Michelle Anderson

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome / New Members / Observers</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was chaired by Roger Butler in the absence of the chair and vice-chair. All were in agreement.</li> <li>• Mrs Jane Clist, was welcomed as a new member for Group B.</li> <li>• Introductions went round the table.</li> <li>• Ms Lesley Prior was welcomed as the new RE consultant. She has replaced Bunmi Otubushin.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence and Resignations</b>	
	Apologies as listed above. There were no resignations	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b>	
	Correction to the spelling of 'Geoffrey Penzer'. Minutes were then confirmed. There were no matters arising.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Feedback from Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) – Roger Butler</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger gave apologies for the absence of BYP members who were in attendance at another meeting at the Town Hall.</li> <li>• Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) is a group for young people in Brent to express their views and have a say about decisions that affect them. The youth parliament is made up of young people aged 10-19 years old, from all walks of life.</li> <li>• Parliament members decide on the issues that they want to look at (these are called portfolios) and then work with councillors and council officers to bring about changes that will improve local services for young people.</li> <li>• During the last meeting, Bunmi Otubushin suggested that it would be beneficial to get young people's views about RE and perhaps this could be taken into account to when considering reviewing the RE syllabus. To this end, Roger attended a meeting of the BYP to give some details about the work of SACRE, the purpose of the ASC and to gain insight from BYP members about their views on RE.</li> <li>• (see paper entitled 'Discussion about Religious Education from VI form members of the Brent Youth Parliament at its meeting on Saturday July 30 2011).</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marlene expressed the concern that the BYP meets on Saturdays which will exclude Jewish students. She feels that with more than 1000 Jewish students in Brent, they should be given the opportunity to participate in such a meeting. Roger took note, and stated that he will obtain further information concerning this.</li> <li>• There was another concern that fewer schools seem to be inviting members of different faiths to visit them to give talks to students on various issues. It was suggested that the LA write a letter to schools telling them about the availability of SACRE to either send speakers from amongst its membership, or to locate suitable individual from various faiths to visit schools.</li> <li>• It was also suggested that SACRE obtain a list of places of worship who are interested in hosting school visits. Roger added that perhaps SACRE be used as a first point of contact between schools and these places of worship, to avoid them being inundated.</li> <li>• Lesley suggested that SACRE put together a booklet (similar to a catalogue) which lists faiths/ places of worship, who they are, and who to contact to organise a visit.</li> <li>• Marlene suggested that SACRE members could participate in 'faith week' events which some schools organise. It is a type of 'fair' whereby different faiths have tables with displays concerning that particular faith/belief/religion and students walk around, ask questions or interact with various elements, etc.</li> <li>• Lesley added that this could also be mentioned at her upcoming network meeting for RE Coordinators.</li> <li>• Lesley stated that in the past, she has done sessions with SACRE members in other LAs to train them in what schools expect from visits to places of worship. She expressed that schools are interested in inviting people to come in, and to visit places of worship; however, they need people who are in touch, not only with their particular religion/faith/belief, but they are also aware of the issues of young people, the nature of RE and what schools expect from the sessions.</li> <li>• Roger suggested that Lesley run similar sessions for those members of Brent SACRE who are interested.</li> </ul>	Roger to contact Anthony Felsenstein, LA Officer responsible for SACRE, to send letter to schools.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendation for Brent secondary schools to participate in Warwick University project – Roger Butler</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University of Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit is undertaking a major project as part of the AHRC and ESRC Religion and Society programme. The project is concerned with studying young people's attitudes to religious diversity in the UK. The project investigates the attitudes of Year 9 and 10 students from across the UK.</li> <li>• Roger asked SACRE's approval to invite schools to participate. All agreed.</li> </ul>	Roger to contact Anthony Felsenstein to write to schools asking them to participate in the project.
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London SACREs Annual Meeting – to be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Brent SACRE invited to send 3 members along. This was presented to all present and the following members volunteered to attend: Alan Hennes, Basma El-Shayyal and Rupa Monerawala</li> </ul>	Sherry to book 3 places and send confirmation to volunteers.
	<b>Next Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 4:30pm</b> <b>Venue: Centre for Staff Development, Brentfield Road NW10 8HE</b>	
	SACRE meeting ended and the Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened.	



## APPENDIX 2

### MEETING OF BRENT SACRE

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
4:30pm – 6:00pm (refreshments from 4:00pm)  
Centre for Staff Development

### AGENDA

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 4:00- 4:25  | Arrival, refreshments  |
| 4:25-4:30   | Welcome and apologies  |
| 4:30 - 4:45 | Minutes of last meeting (6 <sup>th</sup> October 2011) and matters arising   |
| 4:45 – 5.00 | Updates<br>Membership – Sherry Sorzano<br>NASACRE – Lesley Prior   |
| 5.00-5.05   | Determinations   |
| 5.05-5.15   | A.O.B.<br>SACRE lecture  |
| 5.15-6.00   | <b>Agreed Syllabus matters</b><br><br>Review of current situation with regard to Brent's agreed syllabus?<br>Recent developments that may bear of AS review: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) National curriculum review</li><li>2) Which schools will use an agreed syllabus in future (Academies and free schools do not have to)</li><li>3) Changes to Ofsted framework – knock on effects for RE in schools?</li><li>4) REC<sup>1</sup>, CAQC<sup>2</sup> review of RE curriculum and possible outcomes</li><li>5) Practical immediate concerns for Brent SACRE:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Last agreed syllabus 2002, now 10 years out of date</li><li>II. SACRE needs to advise schools of what is happening with regard to the local ASC</li><li>III. Brent SACRE / ASC needs a plan of action to take matters forward</li></ol></li></ol> |

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<sup>1</sup> REC = Religious Education Council of England and Wales

<sup>2</sup> CAQC = Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications committee

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Attendees**

GROUP A	Alan Hennes, Basma El Shayyal, Marlene Knepler (part), Deva Samaroo, S. Swaminathan, Manhar Mehta, Kamal Persaud
GROUP B	Jane Clist (part), Margaret Engler,
GROUP C	
GROUP D	Clr Choudhary
Others	Anthony Felsenstein Roger Butler, Lesley Prior, Sherry-Ann Sorzano

**Apologies**

Josh Kutichinsky, Navin Swaminarayan, Rupa Monerawela , Toby Crowe, Tasha Critchlow, Sarah Black, Leroy Lindsay

1.	Welcome / Apologies	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anthony welcomed all present.</li> <li>Apologies given as listed above</li> </ul>	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) attending SACRE meetings:</b> Anthony contacted Renata Chavda concerning this but she informed him that she will be going on maternity leave shortly and no one has yet been appointed to replace her. Therefore there has not been much movement on this point.</li> <li>Roger gave an update on Marlene's question about meetings taking place on Saturdays, therefore Jewish students would not be able to participate. Roger spoke to Renata. Renata responded by saying that the invitation to joining the BYP went out to all schools; there had been little response from the Jewish schools. Renata followed this up and offered to have alternate meetings for the BYP, one on a Saturday and one midweek. The headteacher of one Jewish school thanked her for her efforts to accommodate them but said that the school would be unable to participate.</li> <li><b>Letters sent out to schools about visitors from various faiths and religions.</b> Anthony stated that a letter went out to schools shortly after the last SACRE meeting. The response has been very positive and schools have been regularly contacting SACRE to arrange visits and talks. Marlene visited St Joseph's RC Primary, as well as the Ark Academy. Her visits were very popular and well received. Marlene gave a brief report on her visits and brought in photographs.</li> <li>- Councillor Choudhary asked whether there was a list of places of worship or people who are willing to discuss their faith or belief? Marlene responded that synagogues usually contact the schools themselves.</li> <li><b>Warwick University questionnaire:</b> Anthony informed the meeting that upon examination of the questionnaire from Warwick University, he found that some of the questions were inappropriate, for example asking views on very sensitive subjects such as suicide. Some questions were not age-appropriate. On those grounds, he has decided not to send the questionnaire out to Brent schools. Anthony contacted the university to inform them of his decision and they agreed.</li> </ul>	<p>Anthony to contact BYP to follow up.</p> <p>Anthony to resend letter to schools as a reminder.</p> <p>Sherry to compile a list and send out to members.</p>
3.	Updates	Action
	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sherry-Ann informed the meeting that Tasha Critchlow has resigned from SACRE. She will be moving out of London. All wished her the best and Sherry-Ann has sent out a letter to Tasha thanking her for her contribution on behalf of SACRE.</li> </ul>	<p>Sherry-Ann to follow up with the Diocese about the appointment of</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toby Crowe will also be resigning from SACRE because he too, will be moving to another location.</li> </ul> <p><b>NASACRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesley reminded the meeting about the upcoming NASACRE meeting on May 23, 2012. Basma and Swami have indicated that they wish to attend.</li> </ul>	<p>replacements for Toby and Tasha.</p> <p>Sherry-Ann to book places for Basma and Swami to attend NASACRE meeting.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Determinations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to paper entitled 'Update on Determinations'.</li> <li>Roger explained what a determination was to all present and stated that whilst determinations are a 'legal' requirement, if a community school wishes to depart from worship that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature this statutory requirement is not currently being effectively policed and so schools may conclude that they do not need to bother renewing their determinations.</li> <li>Members then questioned the purpose for having determinations?</li> <li>Academies are not under any obligation to follow the agreed syllabus for RE (AS). However, Lesley advised that local authorities are hoping that because of their relationship with academies, they would continue to use the AS. Lesley stated that NASCRE will be sending out a briefing paper to all academies encouraging them to maintain links with LA SACREs. Other SACREs have been writing to schools to remind them about the importance of religious education in schools. Whilst academies are outside the purview of SACREs, SACREs can contact the schools to encourage them, however, academies do not have to comply.</li> <li>Lesley also suggested that LAs may want to consider designing an RE package that schools (including academies) can buy into as part of their service level agreements.</li> <li>Basma suggested that SACRE commission some research on the benefits of teaching high quality RE in schools. This could be supported with evidence, such as examination results to show the impact on school's overall performance. This data could then be used in encouraging academies to use the agreed syllabus. Resources, contacts, etc. could be made available for purchase as well.</li> <li>Lesley stated that this SACRE may want to look at the paper from NASACRE when it comes out, and use this as a starting point when contacting schools.</li> <li>Anthony added that our current academies are already teaching RE and may not need further encouragement.</li> <li>Manhar expressed that in years gone by; SACREs played a more active role and had more influence in schools. Now, he feels that this role has been reduced greatly and SACREs now seem to be a body simply looking on from the sidelines. He questions the importance of SACREs in today's education landscape. Marlene agreed and feels that there seems to be more of a 'secularist' atmosphere in schools.</li> <li>Lesley added that through her RE Coordinators' meetings at Brent, she is now getting quite a lot of requests to go into schools, teachers are asking for advice on collective worship, RE policy writing and schemes of work. Lesley said that this is encouraging and that schools are taking advantage of the letter sent out to Anthony offering support for RE.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p><b>SACRE lecture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestion from Lesley – would this SACRE consider the idea of hosting an annual lecture about RE? SACRE could invite, teachers, councillors, religious groups, and parents etc, to attend. This could be arranged over an afternoon: beginning with a buffet lunch, then various workshops centred around the topic or theme of the afternoon, then the feature speaker at the end.</li> <li>Lesley suggested HMI Alan Brine as the inaugural speaker. She stated that SACRE could</li> </ul>	

	<p>contact the Montgomery Trust who has a list of speakers, and once invited to an event, the Trust pays all speaker's expenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Members found this to be a very good idea and all agreed.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>RE newsletter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthony informed the meeting that Brent will be producing an RE newsletter to go out to schools.</li> </ul>	<p>Anthony to circulate draft to SACRE members.</p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 4:30pm</b>  <b>Venue: Centre for Staff Development, Brentfield Road NW10 8HE</b></p>	
	<p>SACRE meeting ended and the Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened.</p>	

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**

Wednesday 13 June 2012  
4:30pm – 6:00pm (refreshments from 4:00pm)  
Centre for Staff Development

#### **AGENDA**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 4:00- 4:25  | Arrival, refreshments  |
| 4:25-4:30   | Welcome and apologies  |
| 4:30 - 4:40 | Minutes of last meeting (14 March 2012) and matters arising  |
| 4:40 – 5.00 | Feedback from AGM of the Religious Council of England and Wales (including Nick Gibb's speech)               |
| 5.00-5.30   | Updates: Work in Brent schools<br>NASACRE<br>'All-Party Parliamentary Group' on RE<br>Equalities legislation |
| 5.30-5.35   | Determinations   |
| 5.35-5.45   | A.O.B.   |

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRENT SACRE**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Attendees**

GROUP A	Josh Kutchinsky, Alan Hennes, Marlene Knepler, Deva Samaroo, Kamal Persaud
GROUP B	Jane Clist (part), Margaret Engler, Graham Marriner (part)
GROUP C	
GROUP D	Cllr Shafique Choudhary
Others	Anthony Felsenstein, Roger Butler, Lesley Prior, Sherry-Ann Sorzano

**Apologies**

Cllr Mary Daly, Rupa Monerawela, Cllr Bhagwanji Chohan, Valerie Boyd-Hellner

1.	Welcome / Apologies	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh welcomed all present.</li> <li>• Apologies given as listed above.</li> </ul>	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) attending SACRE meetings:</b> Anthony informed the meeting that Renata Chavda is now on maternity leave and Eve Baker, senior staff member for Youth and Connexions is now covering her absence.</li> <li>• Anthony - all schools have been sent the letter inviting them to communicate with Brent SACRE should they wish to have a speaker from any of the denominations or belief systems represented on SACRE.</li> <li>• Sherry – query raised by Cllr Choudhary regarding the availability of a list of places of worship or other organisations which schools can contact to arrange visits. An initial list has been drawn up and circulated to SACRE members. Members were asked to send additional information so that the list can be as comprehensive as possible.</li> <li>• SACRE membership – Sherry advised the meeting that the Baha'i co-opted member, Julie Lewin has resigned from SACRE due to other work commitments. There are now 4 vacancies to be filled. 3 from Group B- Church of England, and 1 from Group A – Baha'i faith.</li> </ul>	<p>Anthony to make contact with Eve Baker.</p> <p>Marlene and Cllr Choudhary to send additional information to Sherry.</p> <p>Sherry has contacted to Diocese and is awaiting a response.</p> <p>Sherry to contact the Baha'i community to get a replacement.</p>
3.	Feedback from AGM of the Religious Education Council of England (REC) and Wales (including Nick Gibb's speech)	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The REC's annual general meeting took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was attended by Roger Butler and Lesley Prior. Roger gave a brief update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The guest speaker was Nick Gibb, Schools Minister (a copy of this speech has been emailed to SACRE). His presence at the meeting demonstrated a willingness on government's part to engage with the REC.</li> <li>○ Elections for the members of the board of the REC were held and Aliya Azam, who sits on Brent SACRE, has been elected as one of the members of the board.</li> <li>○ Josh enquired about the general mood at the meeting regarding RE and Roger replied that the mood was a positive one. Nick Gibb's speech conveyed a sense of optimism that although government is not allocating any funding towards RE, they</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ are willing to work with groups such as the REC.</li> <li>○ Roger also highlighted that the REC has a remarkably wide-ranging membership, having, for example recently received into membership such groups as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) and the Accord Coalition (which includes religious groups, humanists, teachers, trade unionists, educationalists and civil rights activists, working together for inclusive education).</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Updates – Work in Brent schools and NASACRE</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lesley informed the meeting that she is continuing to meet with Primary RE Coordinators once per term at the CSD. Meetings are well attended and staff appreciate the opportunity to network and share practice.</li> <li>● Lesley has also been getting additional requests to go into schools to provide RE support in areas such as collective worship.</li> <li>● There are no primary academies in Brent at this point in time, therefore support for primary schools is ongoing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Academies and RE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NASACRE will be sending out a leaflet to all academies encouraging them to maintain contact with SACREs. The leaflet is expected to highlight the benefits to academies for maintaining this contact; benefits include continuity and progression for students. It would also be very useful for schools to use the agreed syllabus of their own area, or borough, as it will speak to the unique features within that borough. Lesley added that there is no reason why teachers from academies cannot join SACREs. The only proviso of membership is that teachers should be either accredited members of teaching associations or be co-opted members.</li> <li>● Lesley suggested that academies could be directed to the NASACRE website as a source of information and added that SACRE can encourage academies to join, listing all the advantages that would benefit them. She cited an example in Hounslow which has a teacher from an academy as a member of its SACRE.</li> <li>● Anthony added that relations between the LA and academies is a positive one. Although most academies are secondary, they tend to work as a larger group e.g. the Ark Academy. There is a group of secondary headteachers and should SACRE which to raise an issue, this would be the forum to initiate or invite them to attend a SACRE meeting.</li> <li>● Josh suggested that Brent SACRE could engage with academies to find out how they deliver RE in their individual schools.</li> <li>● Roger suggested that in times past, this SACRE has contacted various schools to ask them whether they would be interested in hosting a SACRE meeting, and this approach could be used as a means of engaging with academies.</li> <li>● Marlene stated that she visited the Ark Academy on 3 occasions to speak about Judaism during RE. She was very impressed with the preparatory work done by the pupils and teachers despite the fact that no Jewish children attend the school. So this is showing that some work is being done in RE.</li> <li>● Roger – Nick Gibb, in response to a question from a member of the audience, stated that even if a local authority has no schools which would fall under a SACRE, the authority has a statutory obligation to have a SACRE and an agreed syllabus. The agreed syllabus should be used as a benchmark for all schools; and if an academy without a religious foundation does not have a superior RE programme to that offered by the local agreed syllabus then it should be using that agreed syllabus.</li> <li>● It was suggested that it could be considered a ‘marketing point’ for SACRE targeted at academies if they had an agreed syllabus which contains schemes of work.</li> <li>● Lesley advised that if a SACRE has a product, either a scheme of work or an agreed syllabus, it must be clear whether the agreed syllabus contains only guidance or whether it should include units of work/ schemes of work, which would make it more valuable to schools.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh added that Brent has always been seen as forerunners in the area of the running of it's SACRE as well as its agreed syllabus. Perhaps this could be capitalised as a marketing point for the future as well.</li> </ul> <p><b>All-Party Parliamentary Group' on RE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger explained the background of this group as having arisen out of last year's unsuccessful campaign to have RE included as a subject in the so-called English Baccalaureate (EBacc.) Stephen Lloyd, Lib Dem MP for Eastbourne and Willingdon, who tabled an early day motion calling for RE to be included in the EBacc which attracted 115 signatures, is to be the Chair of the APPG which held its inaugural AGM at the Houses of Parliament on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Roger gave an explanation of what the APPG hope to accomplish and added that the APPG could act as a point of contact or liaison between Parliament and SACREs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Equalities legislation – Anthony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools now have a general duty towards equality as well as more specific duties which may of interest to Brent SACRE. The Equality Act 2010 lists actions and behaviours which are considered unlawful.</li> <li>• Among these actions and behaviours is 'harassment related to a protected characteristic'. Protected characteristics refer to a person's identity. Treating a person less favourably because they have one or more of these characteristics would be discriminatory. Religion and belief is one of these characteristics.</li> <li>• The new Ofsted inspection framework makes it clear that equality and diversity should be reflected in every aspect of school life and will be considered as part of all inspection judgements.</li> <li>• Schools must identify equality objectives which are targeted at specific groups.</li> <li>• SACRE members expressed an interest in reading the full Equality Act guidance.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to the document 'Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Anthony to send the full Equality Act guidance to SACRE members.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Determinations</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherry gave an update on the status of Determinations stating that there are currently 12 schools whose determinations have expired; 3 of these are now academies: Claremont High, Crest Boys' and Crest Girls'. Sherry reminded those present that a decision had been taken at a previous meeting that a letter from either the Chair, or the local authority should be sent to these schools (not academies). The meeting was also reminded that the process of applying for a determination would be looked at, with a view of simplifying the process, as this may be one of the determining factors as to why schools have not renewed.</li> <li>• Josh stated that perhaps SACRE should inform schools that by not having a determination, they are, in fact, taking a decision to provide worship that is 'wholly or broadly of a Christian nature'.</li> <li>• The matter was further discussed and Lesley advised that Brent's process of applying for a determination is very similar to that of Hounslow. It was decided that the current process will remain.</li> <li>• The point was also made that schools which do not have a determination are not monitored to ensure that they are providing worship that is 'wholly or broadly of a Christian nature', nor are their collective worship policies checked.</li> <li>• At the last meeting it was mentioned that whilst determinations are a 'legal' requirement, if a community school wishes to depart from worship that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature, this statutory requirement is not currently being effectively policed and so schools may conclude that they do not need to bother renewing their determinations.</li> <li>• It was suggested that a letter go out to schools inviting them, if providing worship mainly of a Christian nature is not for them, to apply for a determination. The letter should point out that if they do not have a determination and do not provide collective worship of a 'wholly or mainly</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to document entitled 'Determinations' which list all the current and expired determinations in Brent schools.</p>



	<p>of a broadly Christian nature,' then they are breaking the law, but that SACRE is available to advise and help. The main idea is that this should be seen as an opportunity for engagement and not a threat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the letter should come from the local authority.</li> </ul>	<p>Anthony to draft letter to go out to schools.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p>	
	<p><b>RE newsletter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margaret thanked Lesley for the primary and secondary newsletters. She was impressed by their content and found the information very useful.</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact by members of the Baha'i faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesley informed the meeting that she has been approached by members of the Baha'i faith who would like to begin visiting schools to talk about their religion. Lesley stated that she may invite the person to attend one of the RE coordinators' meetings to speak to staff from schools.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2012-13</b></p> <p><b>Venue: Centre for Staff Development, Brentfield Road NW10 8HE</b></p> <p>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012</p> <p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013</p> <p>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013</p>	

# APPENDIX 4

Complete Members List 2011-12				
Groups	Denomination	Title	Forename	Surname
Group A	Baha'i			
Group A	Buddhism	Ms	Rupa	Monerawela
Group A	Free Churches (Methodist)			
Group A	Free Churches (United Reformed/Moravian)	Mr	Glen	Warner
Group A	Greek Orthodox	Mrs	Andri	Kyriakidis
Group A	Hinduism (Brent Hindu Samaj)	Mr	Deva	Samaroo
Group A	Hinduism (Saiva Siddanta)	Mr	S	Swaminathan
Group A	Hinduism (Swaminarayan Hindu Mission)-VC	Dr	Navin	Swaminarayan
Group A	Hinduism (Vivekananda Centre)	Mr	Kamal	Persaud
Group A	Humanism - Chair	Mr	Josh	Kutchinsky
Group A	Islam (Shi'a)	Ms	Arzina	Merali
Group A	Islam (Shi'a)	Mrs	Aliya	Azam
Group A	Islam (Sunni)	Mrs	Basma	El Shayyal
Group A	Islam (Sunni)			
Group A	Jainism	Mr	Manhar	Mehta
Group A	Judaism (Orthodox)	Mrs	Marlene	Knepler
Group A	Judaism (Reform)	Ms	Valerie	Boyd-Hellner
Group A	Pentecostal Churches			
Group A	Pentecostal Churches			
Group A	Rastafarianism	Mr	Leroy	Lindsay
Group A	Roman Catholicism			
Group A	Roman Catholicism			
Group A	Sikhism	Mr	Yoginder	Singh Maini
Group A	Zoroastrianism			
Group B	Church of England			
Group B	Church of England			
Group B	Church of England	Rvd	Margaret	Engler
Group B	Church of England	Rvd	Angela	Hopkins
Group B	Church of England	Mr	Graham	Marriner
Group B	Church of England	Mrs	Jane	Clist
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers	Ms	Sarah	Black
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers	Mr	Paul	Cloves
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers			
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers	Ms	Michelle	Anderson
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers	Ms	Marlene	Downer
Group C	Associations Representing Teachers	Mr	Kishan	Devani
Group C	Nominated by Brent Prim Schl HTs Grp	Mrs	Sophie	Allen
Group C	Nominated by Brent Prim Schl HTs Grp			
Group C	Nominated by Brent Prim Schl HTs Grp	Ms	Sian	Davies
Group D	The Authority (Municipal Yr 12/13)	Cllr	Mary	Daly
Group D	The Authority (Municipal Yr 12/13)	Cllr	Shafique	Choudhary
Group D	The Authority (Municipal Yr 12/13)	Cllr	Bhagwanji	Chohan

# APPENDIX 5



CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
Director: Dr Krutika Pau

Services to Schools  
Gwenneth Rickus Building  
240-250 Brentfield Road  
London NW10 8HE

TEL: 020 8937 3297

FAX: 020 8937 3368

Email: [anthony.felsenstein@brent.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.felsenstein@brent.gov.uk)

WEB: [www.brent.gov.uk](http://www.brent.gov.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> October 2011

To: Headteachers of all primary and secondary schools

Dear Colleague,

## **Visits to places of worship and inviting speakers into schools to speak on religious topics**

Many schools in Brent enhance their religious education provision by incorporating into it either visits to places of worship or speakers from religious and belief communities.

Brent LA convenes a Standing Advisory Council of Religious Education (SACRE) with representatives of all the major religious traditions, and of Humanism, who would be happy to help you organise knowledgeable speakers to come into classes or assemblies, or to put you in touch with suitable places of worship to visit.

If you would like SACRE's help in relation to these matters, or advising you in any other way in relation to religious education, please contact the clerk to SACRE:

Sherry-Ann Sorzano  
Executive Assistant  
Services to Schools  
Gwenneth Rickus Building  
240-250 Brentfield Road  
London, NW10 8HE  
Telephone: 020 8937 3365  
Email: [sherry.sorzano@brent.gov.uk](mailto:sherry.sorzano@brent.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Anthony Felsenstein**  
**Strategic Lead, Behaviour, Attendance and Wellbeing**

Cc: the RE Coordinator

# APPENDIX 6



CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
Director: Dr Krutika Pau

Services to Schools  
Gwenneth Rickus Building  
240-250 Brentfield Road  
London NW10 8HE

TEL: 020 8937 3297

FAX: 020 8937 3368

Email: [anthony.felsenstein@brent.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.felsenstein@brent.gov.uk)

WEB: [www.brent.gov.uk](http://www.brent.gov.uk)

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09 July 2012

Name of Head  
School's address

Dear

**Application to LB of Brent SACRE for a consideration that Section 394(1) of the Education Act 1996 should be lifted in respect of the pupils of (NAME OF SCHOOL)**

Your school has a determination from SACRE which allows you to provide acts of collective worship following Brent SACRE's Model Approach. This determination expired on (expiration date).

As you know without a determination schools must provide acts of collective worship which are "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". If you feel this is inappropriate for your school, and wish to apply for a renewal of the determination, please follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed information.

If you have any queries about collective worship, please contact: Roger Butler, Consultant to SACRE at the above address. Please send your application for determination to reach me at the above address, by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012, in time for the SACRE meeting in October 2012. You can also send your application by fax to 020 7937 3368 or email [sherry.sorzano@brent.gov.uk](mailto:sherry.sorzano@brent.gov.uk)

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sherry-Ann Sorzano  
Clerk to SACRE

# APPENDIX 7

## Newsletter



## PRIMARY

Spring Term 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the New Year and to the fifth edition of this RE Newsletter for Community Schools from the LDBS! I hope you will find it a useful way of keeping in touch and finding out about all the relevant courses, meetings and events which will be taking place each term.

**We are continuing to create a database of CONTACT DETAILS for all RE Coordinators in community schools, so do let us have yours as soon as possible if you have not already done so! Thank you!**

Please remember that if you require any help, advice or support with Religious Education (or Collective Worship) in your school I would be delighted to hear from you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to make an appointment. I am able to:

- review and report on RE and/or CW in your school
- observe, support and work alongside individual teachers in the classroom
- lead INSET on RE and/or CW for all staff or smaller groups
- provide curriculum advice
- train staff in developing their own knowledge and understanding of the main world religions and belief systems featured in locally agreed syllabuses today
- help to draw up RE policy documents and/or units of work
- help to draw up CW policy documents, including applications for a 'determination' or 'renewal'
- assist in preparing for (or responding to) OFSTED inspection
- arrange school visits to places of worship and other relevant locations for field work in RE
- recommend appropriate resources
- deliver presentations on RE and/or CW to governors, parents and the wider school community
- advise on issues arising from the interface between religion and school life, for example in connection with diet and dress

# Professional Development Opportunities

**Contact Details:**

Lesley Prior, Adviser for RE in Community Schools  
London Diocesan Board for Schools  
36 Causton Street  
London  
SW1P 4AU

Tel. No: 07808 761 148

E-mail: [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org)



## RE INSET Training Courses

If you are an **RE Coordinator**, a **primary teacher** or another member of staff interested in developing your expertise in RE, I would like to draw your attention to the following one day courses:

### **Creative Approaches to RE in the Primary School**

**Date:** Tuesday 6th March 2012

**Time:** 9.30am to 3.30pm

**Venue:** Conference Room, London Diocesan Board for Schools, 36 Causton Street, London SW1P 4AU

**Cost:** £120 per person

This course will introduce a variety of different practical approaches to teaching and learning in this important subject area. Participants will have opportunities to evaluate these key strategies for promoting high quality RE. They will begin to understand the implications of such strategies for curriculum planning, delivery and resourcing and become aware of how they might be used to identify and support the needs of different learners. There will also be time to investigate how other colleagues can be encouraged to incorporate these techniques into their own curriculum planning.

### **Teaching through Text and Story in RE**

**Date:** Tuesday 20th March 2012

**Time:** 9.30am to 3.30pm

**Venue:** Conference Room, London Diocesan Board for Schools, 36 Causton Street, London SW1P 4AU

**Cost:** £120 per person

In this course, teachers will be introduced to 'lectio divina', a method of engaging with Biblical texts taken from the Benedictine monastic tradition. Similar techniques from other world religions, such as Islam and Judaism will also be included. There will be opportunities to consider whether or not these pedagogical approaches can be transposed to a range of school settings and used with children from a variety of different faith backgrounds and world views. Participants will consider whether such approaches can allow new ways of teaching and learning in RE in order to promote spiritual competencies not framed by any one specific religion or belief system. A proposition will be made that Religious Education should be less a fast food product and more a slow food process, giving longer lasting nourishment not only to children, but also to their teachers.

#### How to apply for a place:

To apply for a place on either of the INSET sessions please email Leanne Gowar at the LDBS on

[leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org](mailto:leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org) or phone her on 020 7932 1159. Alternatively you can complete the individual flyers sent out to schools.

## Farmington Fellowships

The Fellowships are for teachers of Religious Education in UK secondary schools, primary school RE Co-ordinators or other primary schoolteachers involved in teaching RE, and teachers of children with Special Educational Needs who are involved with RE. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply.

Fellows are free to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. Occasionally, the Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may advertise for an RE teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to RE.

The Fellowship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point6 of the main pay scale.

See this link for more details: [http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/Fellowship\\_Leaflet\\_2012-13.pdf](http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/Fellowship_Leaflet_2012-13.pdf)

## The St. Gabriel's Teachers Weekend

This will be held at Wokefield Park Conference Centre on the weekend of 29th-30th September 2012. Funded by the St Gabriel's Trust, the conference is **free** to those teachers chosen to attend. The conference theme will be "From Here to Outstanding – Pushing the Boundaries for RE" and will provide professional development and discussion on the key issues in religious education today.

This weekend will create space for colleagues to engage and emerge confident in pushing the boundaries for outstanding RE. There are as many opportunities to reshape the subject as there are challenges. To register an interest in being invited to the conference, teachers are advised to contact Jessie Sim at the Culham Institute - [jessie@culham.ac.uk](mailto:jessie@culham.ac.uk)

# Teaching RE

## Resources

### New Articles of Faith Catalogue

At Articles of Faith you will find lots of the resources you need to teach Religious Education in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. From genuine religious artefacts sourced from all over the world, to books, CDs, DVDs and more, this really is a one-stop shop for teaching about the six major world faiths and beyond!

Whether you are an RE teacher looking for inspiration and want to develop a more exciting, hands-on approach to your teaching, or you are looking for something in particular, you will find that [www.articlesoffaith.co.uk](http://www.articlesoffaith.co.uk) is the right place. If you can't find what you're looking for, contact a member of staff who will try to source it for you.

You can browse through the product selection either through the interactive flipbook or by clicking into the product sections down the left hand side, and providing an email of your requirements. If you prefer to flick through a catalogue during your lunch break, request a copy and they will send one out to you free of charge.

## Resources for RE in the Early Years from Books@Press

This range of books and accompanying resources supports:

- Religious Education
- Literacy
- SEALThemes
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural awareness
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development in the EYFS
- Numeracy (within the Muslim story resource packs)

Specialists in RE and Early Years have worked together to meet the needs of teachers and pupils to make these areas of the curriculum easily accessible, meaningful and fun! Download some free teachers' support material and perhaps save yourself hours of planning time!

The comprehensive teachers' support materials provides a wealth of activity suggestions linked to each of the resources. Each activity suggestion is linked to the areas of learning for the EYFS curriculum. They illustrate how these resources can support a range of popular topics and how the beliefs and culture element of the Early Years curriculum can be easily included in a cross-curricular approach.

*See: <http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/index.html> for details.*

## Advice on arranging RE School Visits

### Guidance on Religious Believers Visiting Schools

NATRE's (National Association of Teachers of RE's) guidance and code of conduct for religious believers visiting schools is a very popular resource and contains much useful advice. Please contact Lesley Prior at:

[lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org) if you would like a free copy!

## Religious Festivals / Events

### Calendar of Religious Festivals

The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals is an invaluable resource for the teaching profession, students, businesses, chaplaincies, those in health care and public services, to name but a few. It is recognised as the most accurate and most informative calendar on the market.

It provides:

- 3 A4 sheets which can be printed and laminated
- A brief description of each religious festival
- An overview of 18 months from July of one year to December of the next
- Details on 12 different faith's festivals from Baha'i to Zoroastrianism (Parsee) and including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism
- Beautiful images from David Rose for you to print and use in the classroom as a stimulus for discussion and investigative activities.

The cost of the email version, along with the booklet and 12 photos from David Rose will be £3.50. This is available now from: <http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/calendar.html>



## Galleries and Museums to Visit in London

Galleries and museums provide rich resources which we can draw upon to **learn about** and **learn from** different faith communities. Here are some suggestions:

### The British Library

The current exhibition is called **Royal Manuscripts: The Art of Illumination**. is on until **13<sup>th</sup> March, 2012**. Discover the British Library's unique collection of medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts! Collected by the kings and queens of England over 800 years these treasures are outstanding examples of the decorative and figurative painting of the era. Together they are a vivid source for understanding royal identity, moral and religious beliefs, learning, faith, artistic trends and the international politics of the period.

The Library (in St. Pancras in London) is offering some excellent free workshops for primary groups which use gallery spaces to develop creative thinking, visual and verbal literacy and research skills. In particular, you may be interested in the one on religious scriptures which encourages participants to find their own connections with magnificent sacred texts from eight different religions.

### The British Museum

The new **Hajj** Exhibition is at the British Museum from 26th January to 15th April 2012. See [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org) for further details. The exhibition offers a rare opportunity for pupils and teachers to gain a close awareness of the meaning and experience of Hajj and is open for exclusive school visits between 10.00am and 12.00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. You can also visit with your class on other dates when you will share the exhibition with the general public. Visits for school groups and accompanying adults are free but must be booked in advance. There are free downloadable resources to support visits to the exhibition and for planning teaching and learning about Hajj.

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools\\_and\\_teachers/resources/all\\_resources-1/hajj\\_exhibition\\_resources.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources/all_resources-1/hajj_exhibition_resources.aspx)

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools\\_and\\_teachers/resources/all\\_resources-1/hajj\\_classroom\\_resources.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources/all_resources-1/hajj_classroom_resources.aspx)

Check the website for information about other special displays and related events as well as information about the regular collections which feature many objects related to religion, particularly Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.

## Lectures and Debates

### Westminster Faith Debates

The series will present findings from the national research programme 'Religion and Society' for response by public figures. Together they will open up debate about the place of religion in public life today.

Organised and chaired by the Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Professor Linda Woodhead and Dr Rebecca Catto, in partnership with Theos, the programme is:

1. Religious Identity in 'Superdiverse' Societies - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
Trevor Phillips, Dominic Grieve, Kim Knott, Therese O'Toole

2. What's the Place of Faith in Schools? - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012  
Richard Dawkins, John Pritchard, James Conroy, Robert Jackson
3. What have we Learned about Radicalisation? - 7th March 2012  
Mehdi Hasan, Ed Husain, Mark Sedgwick, Marat Shterin, Matthew Francis
4. What role for Religious Organisations in an era of Shrinking Welfare? - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012  
David Blunkett, Peter Smith, Adam Dinham, Sarah Johnsen
5. What Limits to Religious Freedom? - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
Lisa Appignanesi, Michael Nazir-Ali, Julia Neuberger, Maleiha Malik, Peter Jones
6. What are the main Trends in Religion and Values in Britain? - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012  
Aaqil Ahmed, Cole Moreton, Linda Woodhead, Grace Davie

Venue: RUSI, 61 Whitehall, SW1A 2ET, on Wednesdays, 5.30-7pm

Please email Peta Ainsworth (p.ainsworth@lancs.ac.uk) to register, and visit [http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/faith\\_debates](http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/faith_debates) for further details.

(Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council.)



## SECONDARY

Spring Term  
2012

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the New Year and to the fifth edition of this RE Newsletter for Community Schools from the LDBS! I hope you will find it a useful way of keeping in touch and finding out about all the relevant courses, meetings and events which will be taking place each term.

**We are continuing to create a database of CONTACT DETAILS for all Heads of RE and RE Teachers in community schools, including academies, so do let us have yours as soon as possible if you have not already done so! Thank you!**

Please remember that if you require any help, advice or support with Religious Education (or Collective Worship) in your school I would be delighted to hear from you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to make an appointment. I am able to:

- review and report on RE and/or CW in your school
- observe, support and work alongside individual teachers in the classroom
- lead INSET on RE and/or CW for all staff or smaller groups
- provide curriculum advice
- train staff in developing their own knowledge and understanding of the main world religions and belief systems featured in locally agreed syllabuses today
- help to draw up RE policy documents and/or units of work
- help to draw up CW policy documents, including applications for a 'determination' or determination' renewal
- assist in preparing for (or responding to) OFSTED inspection
- arrange school visits to places of worship and other relevant locations for field work in RE
- recommend appropriate resources
- deliver presentations on RE and/or CW to governors, parents and the wider school community
- advise on issues arising from the interface between religion and school life, for example in connection with diet and dress

**Contact Details:**

Lesley Prior, Adviser for RE in Community Schools  
London Diocesan Board for Schools  
36 Causton Street  
London  
SW1P 4AU

Tel. No: 07808 761 148

E-mail: [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org)



## Professional Development Opportunities

### Farmington Fellowships

The Fellowships are for teachers of Religious Education in UK secondary schools, primary school RE Co-ordinators or other primary schoolteachers involved in teaching RE, and teachers of children with Special Educational Needs who are involved with RE. Headteachers who wish to undertake research into either Religious Education or Values Education are also eligible to apply.

Fellows are free to study any aspect of Religious Education they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. Occasionally, the Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may advertise for an RE teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to RE.

The Fellowship will cover the cost of tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale.

See this link for more details: [http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/Fellowship\\_Leaflet\\_2012-13.pdf](http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/Fellowship_Leaflet_2012-13.pdf)

### The St. Gabriel's Teachers Weekend

This will be held at Wokefield Park Conference Centre on the weekend of 29th-30th September 2012. Funded by the St Gabriel's Trust, the conference is **free** to those teachers chosen to attend. The conference theme will be "From Here to Outstanding – Pushing the Boundaries for RE" and will provide professional development and discussion on the key issues in religious education today.

This weekend will create space for colleagues to engage and emerge confident in pushing the boundaries for outstanding RE. There are as many opportunities to reshape the subject as there are challenges. To register an interest in being invited to the conference, teachers are advised to contact Jessie Sim at the Culham Institute - [jessie@culham.ac.uk](mailto:jessie@culham.ac.uk)

# Teaching RE

## Religious Festivals / Events

### Calendar of Religious Festivals

The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals is an invaluable resource for the teaching profession, students, businesses, chaplaincies, those in health care and public services, to name but a few. It is recognised as the most accurate and most informative calendar on the market.

It provides:

- 3 A4 sheets which can be printed and laminated
- A brief description of each religious festival
- An overview of 18 months from July of one year to December of the next
- Details on 12 different faith's festivals from Baha'i to Zoroastrianism (Parsee) and including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism
- Beautiful images from David Rose for you to print and use in the classroom as a stimulus for discussion and investigative activities.

The cost of the email version, along with the booklet and 12 photos from David Rose will be £3.50. This is available now from: <http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/calendar.html>

## RE in Academies

Academies are independently funded state schools, outside the remit of the LA and therefore of the SACRE. There are two types of academies: those set up by the present Coalition administration and those established by the previous government. All academies are required to teach RE.

The new academies have to do so according to their funding agreements, which can be amended, without recourse to the law, by the Secretary of State.

Guidance produced by the previous government stipulated that all academies (at that time), except those with a religious foundation, should follow their locally agreed syllabus. This strengthened the wording of the existing funding agreements of the earliest academies, that academies should 'take account of their local agreed syllabus'. However the status of this advice in respect of these academies is now uncertain because of the post-election change of administration.

Current advice from the DfE says new academies must provide RE according to the requirements for new local agreed syllabuses [as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act]. The National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) interprets this as meaning the agreed syllabus for the local authority area in which the Academy is based. Further information, including a position paper, can be found on the NASACRE website at: [www.nasacre.org.uk](http://www.nasacre.org.uk)

## Resources

### New Articles of Faith Catalogue

At Articles of Faith you will find lots of the resources you need to teach Religious Education in Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. From genuine religious artefacts sourced from all over the world, to books, CDs, DVDs and more, this really is a one-stop shop for teaching about the six major world faiths and beyond!

Whether you are an RE teacher looking for inspiration and want to develop a more exciting, hands-on approach to your teaching, or you are looking for something in particular, you will find that [www.articlesoffaith.co.uk](http://www.articlesoffaith.co.uk) is the right place. If you can't find what you're looking for, contact a member of staff who will try to source it for you.

You can browse through the product selection either through the interactive flipbook or by clicking into the product sections down the left hand side, and providing an email of your requirements. If you prefer to flick through a catalogue during your lunch break, request a copy and they will send one out to you free of charge.

### 4thoughttv

This series of highly personal short films is broadcast daily on Channel 4, usually during the early evening. The programmes reflect on a broad range of religious and ethical issues, and aspects of our spiritual lives. These 90-second films challenge some traditional views, providing a platform for both scepticism and devout religious beliefs. Some of the key questions discussed recently have included: 'should gay couples be allowed to marry in places of worship?', 'what's the point of charity?' and 'does faith healing work?', all ripe for discussion across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5!

See <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/4thoughttv> for details!

## Advice on arranging RE School Visits

### Guidance on Religious Believers Visiting Schools

NATRE's (National Association of Teachers of RE's) guidance and code of conduct for religious believers visiting schools is a very popular resource and contains much useful advice. Please contact Lesley Prior at: [lesley.prior@london.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.prior@london.anglican.org) if you would like a free copy!

## Galleries and Museums to Visit in London

Galleries and museums provide rich resources which we can draw upon to **learn about** and **learn from** different faith communities. Here are some suggestions:

### The British Library

The current exhibition is called **Royal Manuscripts: The Art of Illumination**. is on until **13<sup>th</sup> March, 2012**. Discover the British Library's unique collection of medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts! Collected by the kings and queens of England over 800 years these treasures are outstanding examples of the decorative and figurative painting of the era. Together they are a vivid source for understanding royal identity, moral and religious beliefs, learning, faith, artistic trends and the international politics of the period.

The Library (in St. Pancras in London) is offering some excellent free workshops for primary groups which use gallery spaces to develop creative thinking, visual and verbal literacy and research skills. In particular, you may be interested in the one on religious scriptures which encourages participants to find their own connections with magnificent sacred texts from eight different religions.

### The British Museum

The new **Hajj** Exhibition is at the British Museum from 26th January to 15th April 2012. See [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org) for further details. The exhibition offers a rare opportunity for pupils and teachers to gain a close awareness of the meaning and experience of Hajj and is open for exclusive school visits between 10.00am and 12.00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. You can also visit with your class on other dates when you will share the exhibition with the general public. Visits for school groups and accompanying adults are free but must be booked in advance. There are free downloadable resources to support visits to the exhibition and for planning

teaching and learning about Hajj.

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools\\_and\\_teachers/resources/all\\_resources-1/hajj\\_exhibition\\_resources.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources/all_resources-1/hajj_exhibition_resources.aspx)

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools\\_and\\_teachers/resources/all\\_resources-1/hajj\\_classroom\\_resources.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources/all_resources-1/hajj_classroom_resources.aspx)

Check the website for information about other special displays and related events as well as information about the regular collections which feature many objects related to religion, particularly Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.